

New York State Department of Health

Review of Proposed CDC Draft Guideline for the Prevention and Control of Norovirus Gastroenteritis Outbreaks in Healthcare Settings

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Proposed CDC Recommendation	New York State Concerns	New York State Recommendations
<p><u>Page 11:</u> 3.C.4.a During outbreaks, patients with norovirus gastroenteritis should be cohorted or placed on Contact Precautions for a minimum of 48 hours after the resolution of symptoms to prevent further exposure of susceptible patients (<b>Category IB</b>) (Key Question 3C)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a cohort does not obviate the need for contact precautions for symptomatic individuals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact precautions should be followed within the symptomatic cohort.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Page 17: Performance Measures</u> -Use of performance measures may assist individual healthcare facilities, as well as local and state health departments to recognize increasing and peak activities of norovirus infection, and may allow for prevention and awareness efforts to be implemented rapidly or as disease incidence escalates. Evaluate fluctuations in the incidence of norovirus in healthcare settings using the National Outbreak Reporting System (NORS) (<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/outbreaknet/nors/">http://www.cdc.gov/outbreaknet/nors/</a>). This system monitors the reporting of waterborne, foodborne, enteric person-to-person and animal contact-associated disease outbreaks to CDC by state and territorial public health agencies. This surveillance program was previously used only for reporting foodborne disease outbreaks, but it has now expanded to include all enteric outbreaks, regardless of mode of transmission. Additionally, CDC is currently implementing a national surveillance system (CaliciNet) for genetic sequences of noroviruses; this system may also be used to measure changes in the epidemiology of healthcare-associated norovirus infections.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthcare facilities do not report gastroenteritis outbreaks directly to CDC, but rather to state and local health departments. Directing users to the NORS website may add confusion with regards to reporting responsibilities.</li> <li>The data currently included in NORS may not be timely, sensitive or specific enough for use as a performance measure. NORS data is currently limited to foodborne outbreaks and at this time may not be a suitable performance measure for healthcare facilities where outbreaks may primarily be due to person-to-person transmission. Additionally, local and state health departments may have more timely information that may be utilized as a performance measure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NYSDOH recommends removing NORS as a performance measure for healthcare facilities.</li> </ul>